

**MINUTES OF A REGULAR MEETING OF  
THE ENVIRONMENTAL QUALITY AND  
ENERGY CONSERVATION COMMISSION**

**1. CALL TO ORDER**

The Torrance Environmental Quality and Energy Conservation Commission convened in a regular session at 7:03 p.m. on Thursday, April 5, 2012 in the West Annex meeting room at Torrance City Hall.

**2. ROLL CALL:**

Present: Commissioners Gobble, Robbins,  
Watson, and Chairperson Griffiths.

Absent: Commissioners Chim and Reilly.

Also Present: Senior Environmental Quality Officer Jones and  
Senior Environmental Quality Officer Duncan.

**MOTION:** Commissioner Watson moved to grant Commissioners Chim and Reilly excused absences for the April 5, 2012 Commission meeting. Commissioner Robbins seconded the motion; a voice vote reflected unanimous approval.

Commissioner Watson requested an excused absence for the May 3, 2012 Commission meeting.

**3. SALUTE TO THE FLAG**

Commissioner Gobble led the Pledge of Allegiance.

**4. POSTING OF THE AGENDA**

**MOTION:** Commissioner Gobble, seconded by Commissioner Robbins, moved to accept and file the report of the secretary on the posting of the agenda for this meeting; a voice vote reflected unanimous approval.

**5. ORAL COMMUNICATIONS FROM THE PUBLIC**

None.

**6. APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

**6A. MINUTES OF MARCH 1, 2012**

Approval of the March 1, 2012 meeting minutes was postponed to the May 3, 2012 Commission meeting.

**7. ENVIRONMENTAL MATTERS**

## **7A. YARD / GARAGE SALES**

Senior Environmental Quality Officer Jones presented a list of suggested guidelines for a draft ordinance to regulate yard and garage sales on residential properties in the City. She stated that staff currently receives approximately 10 complaints per year about yard sales and, following investigation, mails out an informational notice to the resident. She noted that codified regulations would add more teeth to enforcement and allow for prosecution of egregious offenders. She reviewed the suggested criteria regarding the number of sales allowed per year, placement of signage, hours of operation, and multifamily properties, noting that staff recommends not requiring fees or permits. She stated that enforcement would be complaint driven and would target those individuals who are using yard sales as a business. She stated that a chart summarizing what 13 other cities are doing regarding yard sales was included in agenda materials.

Commissioner Robbins pointed out that some sales take place in parking lots and inquired how staff could enforce the regulations on weekends.

Senior Environmental Quality Officer Jones responded that staff is aware of the situation and can make arrangements to work on weekends.

In response to Commissioner Watson's inquiry regarding condominiums, she stated that it might be possible to coordinate with homeowners associations.

Commissioner Gobble questioned how staff could track the number of sales a resident has per year if there is not a permit system. He suggested developing a simple on-line permit or registration system with no fee, considering per parcel of land rather than multifamily properties, allowing signs in public right-of-way according to Code, and allowing sales to continue until dusk.

Responding to Commissioner Robbins' inquiry about signage, Senior Environmental Quality Officer Jones stated that currently the City pays for a company to remove illegal signs posted in the public right-of-way. She added that all signage in the public right-of-way is illegal with the exception of real estate signage in certain public areas such as medians.

Commissioner Robbins suggested soliciting help from the State Board of Equalization to enforce repeat offenders.

Chairperson Griffiths voiced support for on-line registration, posting the rules and regulations on the website, allowing signage for yard sales the same as for real estate, and allowing them to advertise their yard sales on the website.

Senior Environmental Quality Officer Jones thanked Commissioners for their input and advised them that staff would bring back a draft ordinance for their review.

## **7B. UPDATE ON TRIFECTA FAIR**

Senior Environmental Quality Officer Jones informed Commissioners that 14 vendors are scheduled for the environmental portion of the June 9, 2012 Trifecta Fair. She stated that there would be two composting workshops and an electric vehicle display, adding that there is room for an additional workshop or speaker.

Commissioner Watson stated that the South Bay Chapter of Surfrider Foundation is interested in participating and would be willing to do a workshop.

Commissioners and staff discussed providing ladybugs, a drawing contest, and showcasing environmentally friendly building materials.

**8. INFORMATION ITEMS**

None.

**9. ORAL COMMUNICATION**

**9A.** Commissioner Watson discussed her attendance at the Ocean Friendly workshops at Inglewood Fire Department and announced a re-landscaping project at West High School on April 14, 2012.

**9B.** Commissioner Watson questioned how long a store can be “going out of business” and Senior Environmental Quality Officer Jones stated that this is enforced by the Business License Department.

**9C.** Commissioner Watson invited Commissioners to attend the Library Foundation’s Unbroken book discussion at the Western Museum of Flight on April 14, 2012 and provided information about other Centennial events.

**9D.** Commissioner Watson stated that she attended the Partner Building grand opening on March 29, 2012 and found it to be a creative and adaptive reuse of a building that was unoccupied for 11 years. She raised the possibility of Commissioners touring the building.

**9E.** Chairperson Griffiths stated that he attended a South Bay Environmental Savings Center program on Energy Upgrade California on March 14, 2012 and suggested inviting them to the Trifecta Fair.

**10. ADJOURNMENT**

**MOTION:** At 8:00 p.m., Commissioner Watson moved to adjourn the meeting to May 3, 2012 at 7:00 p.m. in the West Annex meeting room. Commissioner Gobble seconded the motion and, hearing no objection, Chairperson Griffiths so ordered.

Approved as Submitted May 3, 2012 s/ Sue Herbers, City Clerk
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